THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The per capita availability of pulses during last five years has been fluctuating as given below:

Year	Per Capita Net Availability (kg. per annum)
1996	11.9
1997	13.6
1998	12.0
1999	13.5
2000(P)	11.7

P — (Provisional)

(c) The availability of pulses depends upon their production which fluctuate from year to year depending upon the behaviour of monsoon as these are cultivated on marginal and sub-marginal lands and under rainfed conditions.

(d) The working group on demand supply projections of Agricultural Commodities for IX Plan set-up by the Planning Commission has estimated the production requirement of pulses for 2001- 2002 at 17.20 million tonnes and consumption requirement at 13.90 million tonnes under normative approach.

(e) The Government of India is making all efforts to meet the demand of pulses in the country by increasing the production of pulses. For increasing the production of pulses a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is under implementation in 30 States/UTs. The scheme envisages financial assistance to the States for production and distribution of seed, seed minikit, rhyzobium culture, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements etc. In addition, field demonstration and farmers training are also being organized for transfer of improved production and protection technology to the farmers for increasing the production of pulses in the country.

Import of pulses

3344. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of pulses witnessed a seven fold increase during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of imports, item-wise, during the same period and the corresponding production in the country;

(c) what steps are being taken to arrest imports and to enhance their production in the country; and

(d) what is the action plan with Government to make India self-reliant in pulses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The import of pulses keeps on fluctuating depending upon the internal availability of pulses in the country. There is no restriction on the import of pulses as the import is under Open General Licence (OGL).

The import of pulses during last three years and the corresponding production in the country during the same period are given below:

(Qty. in Lakh tonnes)

Year	Production	Imports
1999-2000	134.10	2.51
2000-2001	106.70	3.54
2001-2002	137. 90 (Estimated)	16.56 (April to Dec. 2001)

Source: DGCI&S Ministry of Commerce, Calcutta.

There has been a larger import during 2001-2002 on account of lower production in the year 2000-2001 due to drought like conditions in major pulse growing States.

(c) In order to restrict the import of pulses the Government has recently enhanced the import duty from 5% to 10%. In order to enhance the production of pulses in the country a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is under implementation in 30 States/UTs. The scheme envisages financial assistance to the States for production and distribution of seed, seed minikit, rhyzobium culture, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements etc. In addition, field demonstration and farmers training are also being organised for transfer of improved production and protection technology to the farmers for increasing the producton of pulses in the country.

(d) The National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) will continue during the Tenth Five Year Plan. The recommendations of the Expert Committee on Pulses have been incorporated in the National Pulses Development Programme. The thrust areas for increasing the production of pulses are area expansion and increase in productivity.